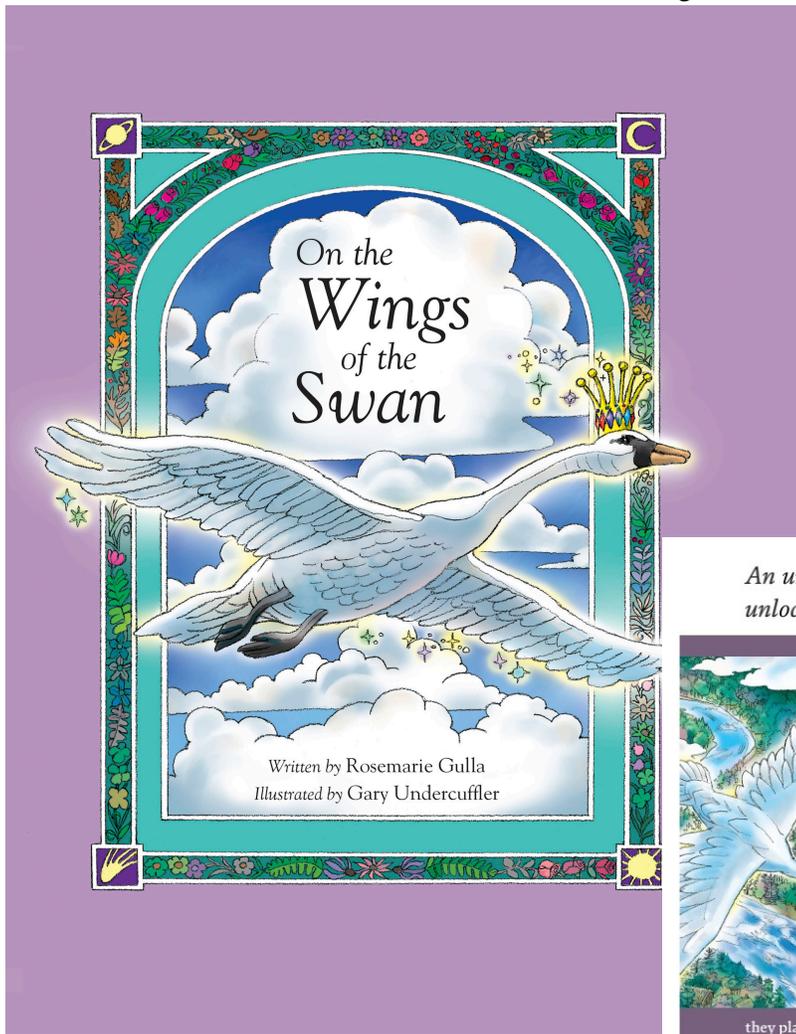




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"Rosemarie's book uses her storytelling skills and completely engages the children."
—Anne Bradley, International Reading Association

"On the Wings of the Swan was definitely written by a storyteller, drawing the reader into the characters, the setting, the drama, and the story."

—Alicia Kuranda, Raue Theater, Epic Repertory Company

"Thank you for the fantastic story. Our most favorite character was Munya the fairy. She is so funny. Our favorite part was about what the very important man with no name did."
—Walter, Trinity, Kaley and Olivia, 2nd graders



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US \$10.99 / CAN \$14.99
PRINTED IN CANADA



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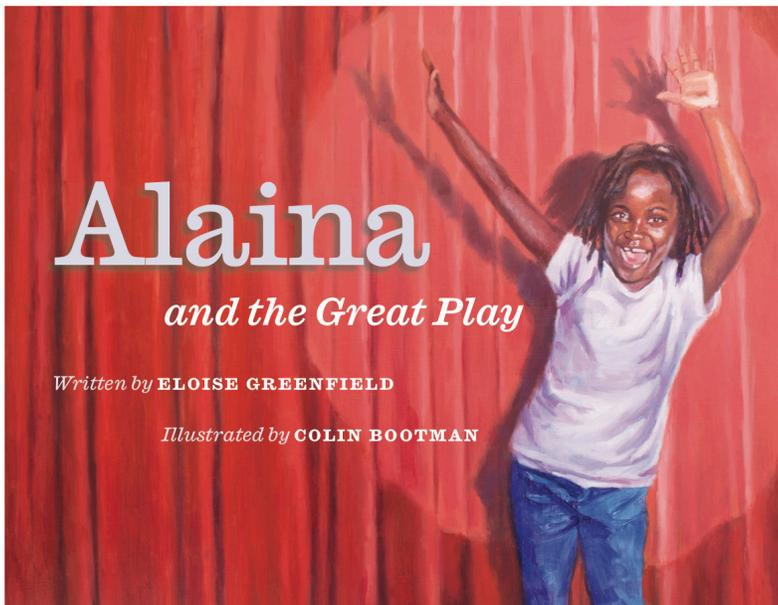


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Join in with Alaina as she prepares to thank the audience at her elementary school play. Her imagination and exuberance result in something joyous and unexpected . . .

With the guileless wonder, the innocence of a little girl, Alaina is profoundly changed by the performance of a school play. As she falls in love with the art of live theater, her enthusiasm lands her center stage. Alaina recounts “But when I opened my mouth, the right words didn’t come out. I was too excited to say that little speech. It wasn’t good enough for that great play, so . . .”

Author – Eloise Greenfield

With many award-winning books to her credit, Eloise Greenfield has achieved her status among the most celebrated of children’s authors. Multiple lifetime achievement awards include the ALA Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement, a Living Legacy Award, a Hope S. Dean Award, an NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children among others. She has been inducted into the National Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent.

Illustrator – Colin Bootman

Colin Bootman was born in Trinidad, where the vibrant palette of the Caribbean influenced his painting. He moved to the United States when he was seven, where he studied art and illustration. Mr. Bootman has illustrated many books for children, winning the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award in 2004. In 2017, Colin won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Works for Children. All of his award-winning illustrations show how brilliantly his art frames moments of life.

Alaina and the Great Play

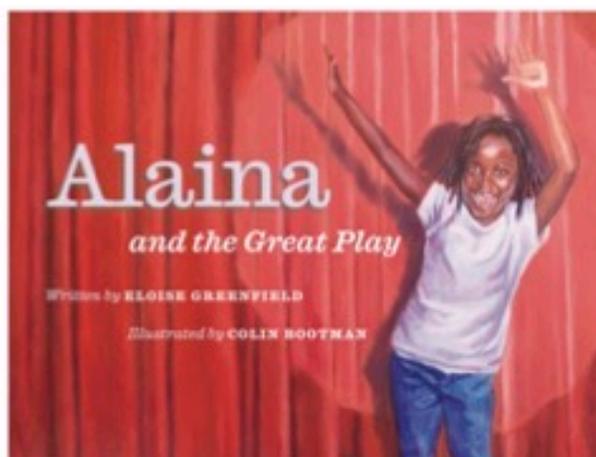
Published by Alazar Press | distributed by IPG | ISBN: 978-1-7336865-2-5
Hardcover Picture Book | 32 pages | 11 X 8.5 | \$17.95 US (\$23.95 CAN) | Fiction



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Praise for *Alaina and the Great Play* by Eloise Greenfield,
Illustrations by Colin Bootman



"A delightfully illustrated, one-of-a-kind Greenfield creation that will have readers wishing for another."

—Kirkus Reviews

"In this exuberant story, the oil paintings are stellar. Each picture of Alaina is so realistic and so joyful, she almost leaps off the page. Her loving and supportive community is so clearly articulated that readers will recognize the types of people on every page: her classmates, her mother, her working father, teachers. VERDICT Joy packaged up in a picture book, ready for readers to enjoy again and again."

—School Library Journal

"From cover to cover, this book will steal your heart. With *Alaina and the Great Play*, beloved author Eloise Greenfield successfully captures the joy of a Black child and the strength and support of her family as they prepare for a special performance. The emotions of the story are brought to life by the gifted Colin Bootman, whose textured paintings exude the qualities of Black Girl magic."

—Don Tate is an award-winning illustrator

"The story went directly to the heart and life of a child ... the illustrations were exciting companions to the text."

—Ashley Bryan, Author of *Freedom Over Me*, winner of a Newbury Honor and 19 other awards

"Eloise Greenfield is a master storyteller. She and Colin worked their magic. His illustrations made me feel like I was part of Alaina's world."

— Kelly Starling Lyons, author and founding member of The Brown Bookshelf

"Text and pictures capture the delight, energy, reflection and spontaneity of young Alaina. Lovely book to share with children."

—Geraldine Larson, librarian and Field Experience Coordinator for the UNC-School of Library & Information Science

"Award-winning author Greenfield introduces readers to Alaina, an ebullient kindergartner who discovers her love of live theater. Bootman's gorgeous illustrations use vibrant colors and soft brushwork to create realistic scenes of a loving Black family and the exciting bustle of school."

—Rosie Camargo, Booklist

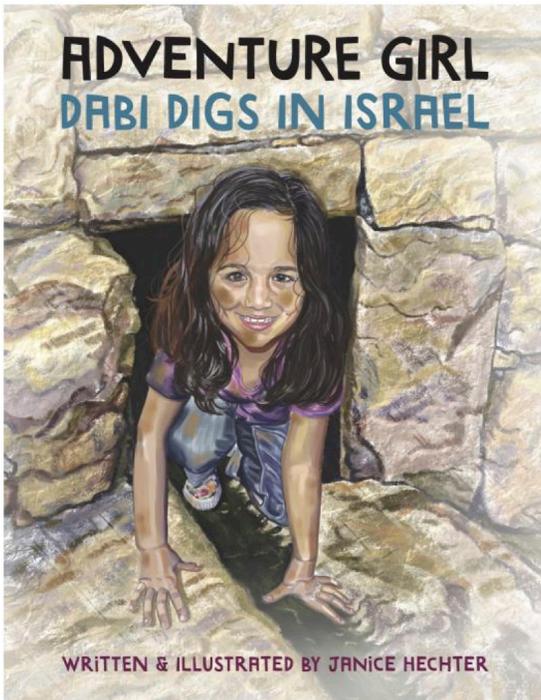
"I wish we could have seen more of the play. Alaina seemed like she really enjoyed the play. And then she even did a flip, just like me! I also liked that the people in the book looked so real!"

--Aidyn, age 6, Kids Book Buzz





Available May 2021 - Distributed by IPG
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Adventure Girl Dabi Digs in Israel

Whether digging in the dirt, crafting mud figures, or playing with worms, Dabi's favorite thing is exploring nature and using it to create her sculptures.

On a special family visit to her grandparents in Israel, Dabi's parents insist that she dress and act like a "little lady". But when she finds a kindred curious spirit in her aunt, who takes her on a new adventure, Dabi makes more than one important discovery, including that it's great to be true to herself.

Author and Illustrator -- Janice Hechter

Janice Hechter is an award-winning illustrator and fine artist who has exhibited her paintings in various galleries and museums throughout the country. Her recent book awards include the San Francisco Book Festival Award and National Best Book Award for *Hooray for Heroes!* She was a Crystal Kite Award Finalist for *The Great Elephant Escape* and received a Mom's Choice Award For *Coach Bob and Me*. This is her first book for Alazar Press and her first book as both author and illustrator.

Adventure Girl

Published by Alazar Press | distributed by IPG | ISBN: 978-1-7336865-0-1
Hardcover Picture Book | 32 pages | 8.5 X 11 | \$17.95 US (\$23.95 CAN) | Fiction

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Visit <https://www.alazar-press.com>

Praise for *Adventure Girl - Dabi Digs in Israel* by Janice Hechter



"We need more *Adventure Girl - Dabi Digs in Israel* stories to create a whole new generation of archaeologists! Making discoveries in the field is great for ages 8-80!"
—Professor Richard Freund, Archaeologist,
Christopher Newport University

"Charmingly told and artfully illustrated, *Adventure Girl* is perfect for any child who loves to dig in the dirt and make their own discoveries."
—Joy Nelkin Wieder, Author/Illustrator

"In *Dabi*, Janice Hechter offers us a heroine for the ages—a budding archaeologist who will never be too old or too lady-like to dig in the dirt and discover essential parts of Israel's past."
—Miriam Udel, associate professor of Yiddish language, literature, and culture at Emory University

"The story went directly to the heart and life of a child ... the illustrations were exciting companions to the text."
—Ashley Bryan, Author of *Freedom Over Me*, winner of a Newbury Honor and other awards

"Janis Hechter's delightful *Adventure Girl: Dabi Digs in Israel* is a book parents and

grandparents will love to read to their children and grandchildren. It weaves self-discovery with discovery of heritage, and belonging with responsibility, through rhyme and word play and illustrations that combine striking expressiveness with the evocation of fantasy."

—Dalit Katz, professor at Wesleyan University

"Young readers will follow *Dabi* as she joins her aunt on the ultimate field trip – an archeological dig in Israel. *Adventure Girl* will surely spark interest in experiences that are unique to Israel."

—Barbara Bietz, award-winning author, educator, and Assistant Regional Advisor to SCBWI Central California

"*Dabi* is delightfully curious and strong-willed [...]. Large-scale, detailed portraits bring the characters... to life and show every emotion, especially at picture-book-viewing distance."
—Kirkus Review

"A girl power story of an archeologist in training who is always at the ready for the next great adventure. *Dabi* is the model of pluck and determination. Rich, tactile illustrations complement the punchy, action-packed story. Highly recommended!"
—Samantha Baskind, Professor of Art History, Cleveland State University

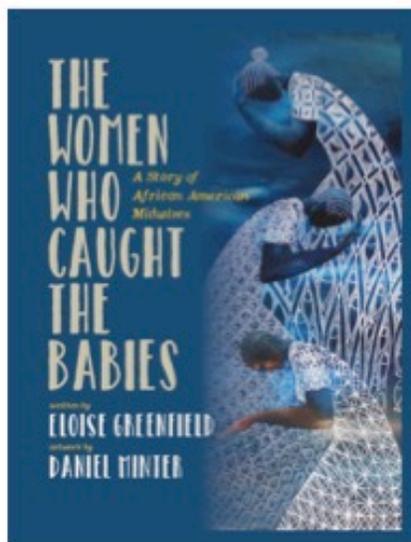
"This is a unique book about a young, adventurous girl [...] She's by no means a girlie girl, and with her Doda Gili she can be her authentic self [...] children will be struck by the life-like, multi-dimensional illustrations that grace the pages."
—Jennifer Padgett, *Manhattan Book Review*





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The Women Who Caught The Babies A Story of African American Midwives



“Midwives have been in the world probably as long as there have been human babies on earth. With this book, though, I want to take you back only as far as the Africa of a few hundred years ago”.

Eloise Greenfield

The Women Who Caught the Babies highlights important aspects of the training and work of African American midwives and the ways in which they have helped, and continue to help, so many families by “catching” their babies at birth. The blend of Eloise Greenfield's poetry and Daniel Minter's art evokes heartfelt appreciation of the abilities of African American midwives over the course of time.

AUTHOR: Eloise Greenfield

With many award-winning books to her credit, Eloise Greenfield has achieved her status among the most celebrated of children’s authors. Multiple lifetime achievement awards include a Living Legacy Award, a Hope S. Dean Award, an NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children among others. She has been inducted into the National Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent. In 2018, Eloise Greenfield was awarded the Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

ILLUSTRATOR: Daniel Minter

Daniel Minter is a painter and illustrator. His paintings, carvings, block prints and sculptures have been exhibited both nationally and internationally at galleries and museums, including the Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Bates College, Hammonds House Museum, Northwest African American Art Museum, Museu Jorge Amado and the Meridian International Center.

The Women Who Caught The Babies

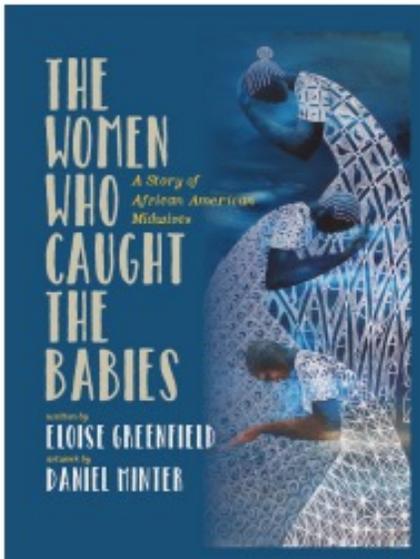
Published by Alazar Press | distributed by IPG | ISBN: 978-0-9977720-7-4
Hardcover Picture Book | 32 pages | 8.5 X 11 | \$17.95 US (\$23.95 CAN) | Poetry

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Praise for *The Women Who Caught The Babies* by Eloise Greenfield
with Artwork by Daniel Minter



"This poetic tale chronicles the presence and contributions of African American midwives. Rites of passage incandescently brought to light."

—Vicky Smith, *Kirkus Reviews* ([starred review](#))

"Through words and images, this unusual book of verse celebrates the long tradition of African American midwives guiding babies into the world "with gentle, loving hands." ... Minter's full-page paintings beautifully illustrate most of the verse. Strong and graceful, the images feature deep, rich colors brightened with white

netlike forms created with repeated motifs and vibrant images evocative of the natural world: the ocean, sea-foam, fishes, birds, branches, leaves, blossoms, fruits, and new life waiting to be born. A unique, moving tribute to the women who caught the babies and continue to do so today."

— Carolyn Phelan, *ALA Booklist* ([starred review](#))

"... the verses capture the powerful, loving, and unwavering work of these women, who guided humans into the world "with gentle, loving hands." The verses are accompanied by Minter's dramatic portraits ... of women and babies ... filled with symbolic patterns and images."

—Julie Danielson, "*Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast*"

"I am so gratified to see such a beautiful treatment of a little recognized African American tradition, combining the poetic

Praise for *The Women Who Caught The Babies* by Eloise Greenfield
with Artwork by Daniel Minter

verse of the woman who loves words, Eloise Greenfield, with the amazing artistic eye of illustrator, Daniel Minter."

– **Shirikiana Aina is an American film director, cinematographer, producer, and writer**

"The Women Who Caught The Babies is a Masterpiece of Art and Writing! It deserves RESOUNDING Praise and Awards!"

—**Ashley Bryan, honors include the John Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award**

"This unique picture book begins with historic background on the work of midwives, written in prose that is accessible to young readers and accompanied by archival photographs. The book then switches to poetry and stunningly beautiful illustrations—with vignettes from lives of midwives during

slavery, emancipation, and today."

—**Deborah Menkart, Social Justice Books**

"This unique picture book begins with historic background on the work of midwives, written in prose that is accessible to young readers and accompanied by archival photographs. The book then switches to poetry and stunningly beautiful illustrations— with vignettes from lives of midwives during slavery, emancipation, and today. Greenfield closes with a poem about the midwife who "caught" her when she was born, Miss Rovenia Mayo of Parmele, North Carolina."

--**Rethinking Schools, Summer 2019, Vol. 33, No. 4**

Informed by his own birth, Minter has illustrated a new children's book by the esteemed African-American children's book author and poet Eloise Greenfield, "The Women Who Caught the



Praise for *The Women Who Caught The Babies* by Eloise Greenfield
with Artwork by Daniel Minter

Babies: A Story of African American Midwives. Minter was born at home in Ellaville, a rural community in west-central Georgia in what he describes as a long and difficult birth. "It was the midwife who caught me, even after I managed to get mixed up and come feet first," he wrote on Facebook.

-- **Bob Keyes, Portland Press Herald**

This moving nonfiction illustrated book, written in verse, illuminates the work and stories of African American midwives. It's empowering to understand their role in shaping generations, even as they were forced into slavery. A bibliography and photographs underscore Minter's powerful artwork.

-- **Ryan Mita, Children's Book Council**

I'm so impressed with the attention to detail that was paid to this book to ensure its authenticity. The archival

photographs that appear in this book were digitally captured from a film called [All my babies...a midwife's own story by documentary filmmaker George C. Stoney](#). I think this book is a winner for poetry lovers and those wanting to learn more about the important history of Black midwives.

-- **Charnaie Gordon, Here Wee Read**

This slim book is insightful and thoughtful, and will speak to anyone interested in African American history, American history, birth history, or any and all. *The Women Who Caught the Babies* is an interesting book that will require many readings to fully appreciate.

-- **Holly Scudero, Manhattan Book Review**

The poetry is lyrical and the illustrations are unique and fascinating. The Caldecott committee can add this to its list of works to consider, along with another Daniel Minter



Praise for The Women Who Caught The Babies by Eloise Greenfield
with Artwork by Daniel Minter

book, [Going Down Home With Daddy](#).

-- **A Kids Book A Day**

This unique picture book begins with historic background on the work of midwives, written in prose that is accessible to young readers and accompanied by archival photographs. The book then switches to poetry and stunningly beautiful illustrations — with vignettes from lives of midwives during slavery, emancipation, and today.

-- **Zinn Education Project**

The [Women Who Caught The Babies](#) was selected as a “Book of Interest to Women Scholars”

-- **Woman in Academia, September 2019**

Selected for New Release Spotlight, August 2019

-- **Mrs. ReaderPants web site**

Selected for September New Releases

-- **Black Children’s Books and Authors web site and BLOG**

September New Releases!

-- **From the Mixed-Up Files of Middle-Grade Authors web site and BLOG**

“They caught the babies, / and catch them still, / welcome them into the world, / for loving.” A lushly illustrated epic ode to black midwives of the past and the present.

-- **The 101 Great Books for Kids (2019 Edition) from Evanston Public Library and SLJ BLOG by Elizabeth Bird**

Chicago Public Library recommends this title as one of the very best informational books published for kids in 4th through 8th grades in 2019.

-- **Chicago Public Library, Best Informational Books for Older Readers of 2019**



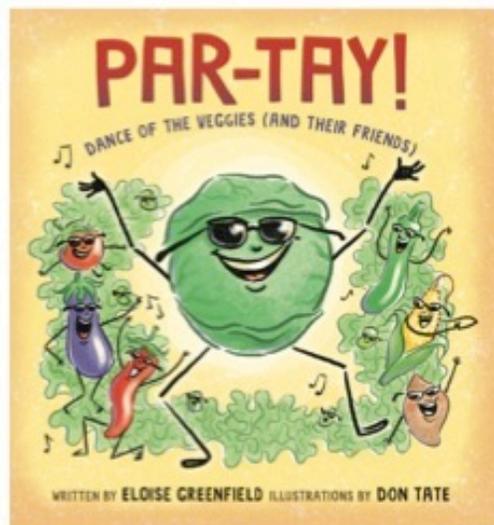


Available April 2018 - Distributed by IPG
Media Contact: Joseph Gulla, Alazar Press
alazar.press@gmail.com | (919) 274-0653

PAR-TAY! DANCE OF THE VEGGIES (AND THEIR FRIENDS)

What happens when the family closes the front door and leaves the house for an outing? “The head of cabbage, sitting in the fridge, hears the front door close, hears the click of the key...”

Story by Eloise Greenfield with illustrations by Don Tate



AUTHOR: Eloise Greenfield

With many award-winning books to her credit, Eloise Greenfield has achieved her status among the most celebrated of children’s authors. Multiple lifetime achievement awards include a Living Legacy Award, a Hope S. Dean Award, an NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children among others. She has been inducted into the National Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent.

ILLUSTRATOR: Don Tate

Don Tate is an award-winning illustrator of numerous critically acclaimed books for children including Whoosh!, Lonnie Johnson’s Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions, The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch, The Cart That Carried Martin, and Hope’s Gift. He is also the author of Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton and It Jes’ Happened: When Bill Traylor Started To Draw which are Ezra Jack Keats award winners. His most recent authored and illustrated picture book biography is Strong As Sandow: How Eugen Sandow Became The Strongest Man on Earth.

Children and adults will experience this house party through the buoyant, rhythmic words of Eloise Greenfield and the playful, exuberant illustrations of Don Tate. Come join the PAR-TAY!

PAR-TAY! Dance of the Veggies (And Their Friends)

Published by Alazar Press | distributed by IPG | ISBN: 978-0-9977720-2-9
Hardcover Picture Book | 32 pages | 10.25 X 10.75 | \$17.95 US (\$23.95 CAN) | Juvenile Fiction

Available at bookstores everywhere and through IPG | 814 N. Franklin, Chicago, IL 60610
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see: <https://partaydanceoftheveggies.wordpress.com/>

The Horn Book Magazine

September/October 2018

Par-Tay! Dance of the Veggies (and Their Friends)

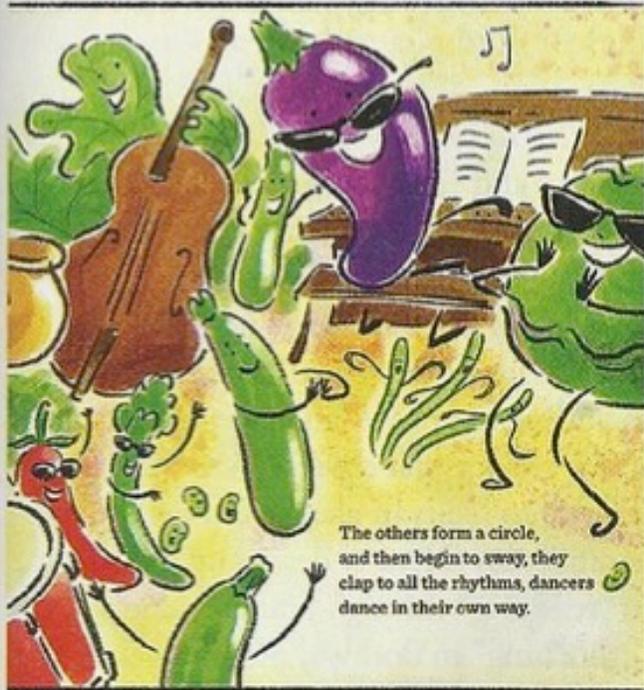
by Eloise Greenfield; illus. by Don Tate

Primary Alazar 32 pp.

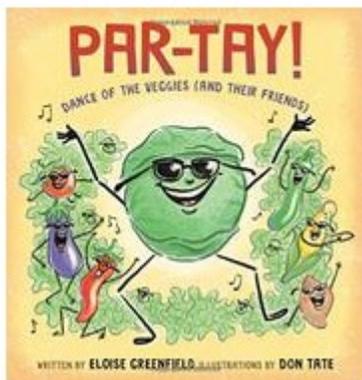
4/18 978-0-9977720-2-9 \$17.95

e-book ed. 978-0-9977720-3-6 \$12.99

Greenfield (winner of the 2018 Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement and perhaps



best known for her works about African American historical events, heroes, and heroines) shows in this zany, free-verse picture book that she takes fantasy and fun seriously. If you think cabbages and eggplant are only comestibles, think again about what the vegetables in your fridge might do when you go out: “par-tay!” From the piano-playing eggplant to the string bass–thumping basil, this band of crudités knows how to rock out. Regardless of how kids feel about asparagus or string beans, they will close this book with a new appreciation for what lands on their plates, thanks in part to a “What Is a Vegetable?” discussion and references in the back matter. (The answer is more complicated than kids—or you—might think.) The uneven rhythms and rhyme scheme and a few puzzling line breaks may make this a bit challenging to read aloud, but the fun is infectious. Tate’s vibrant illustrations turn run-of-the-mill roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds into characters with vivacious personalities for this joyful story.



PAR-TAY!

Dance of the Veggies (and Their Friends)

by [Eloise Greenfield](#) ; illustrated by [Don Tate](#)

Age Range: 3 - 6

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KIRKUS REVIEW

Greenfield invites children to imagine what a fridge full of veggies might do once their people leave for the evening.

They dance, of course—once Cabbage summons them forth as the family departs. Greenfield’s beginning and ending passages are in free verse. In between, syncopated rhymes introduce the fruits and vegetables, many of whom take up instruments to “make a mighty music / for the party that’s to come.” After turns by Zucchini and Hip-Hop String Bean, “The baby limas wobble-dance, / can hardly stand at all, / their mamas run / and catch them, / the moment they start to fall.” Next up: hot chili peppers and a stately waltz from Mr. Corn and Ms. Arugula. “Then, / the sweet potato sisters / dance as sweet as pie, / pirouette and flit / and flutter, / curtsy with a sigh.” After working up a sweat, it’s time to slow-dance back into the “delicious coldness” of the fridge, “(sweet potatoes to the bin),” all contemplating “their / fantabulous / PAR-TAY. / YEAHHHH.” The gifted Tate’s illustrations resemble loose, translucent watercolors contoured by wide, waxy lines. Aside from some pink tutus for the sweet potato sisters and Mr. Corn’s neat mustache, the visual focus is on the veggies’ hip exuberance rather than gender stereotypes.

A rousing read-aloud begging for enthusiastic performers. (author’s note, references) (*Picture book.* 3-6)

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School Library Journal®

PAR-TAY! Dance of the Veggies (and Their Friends) by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Don Tate

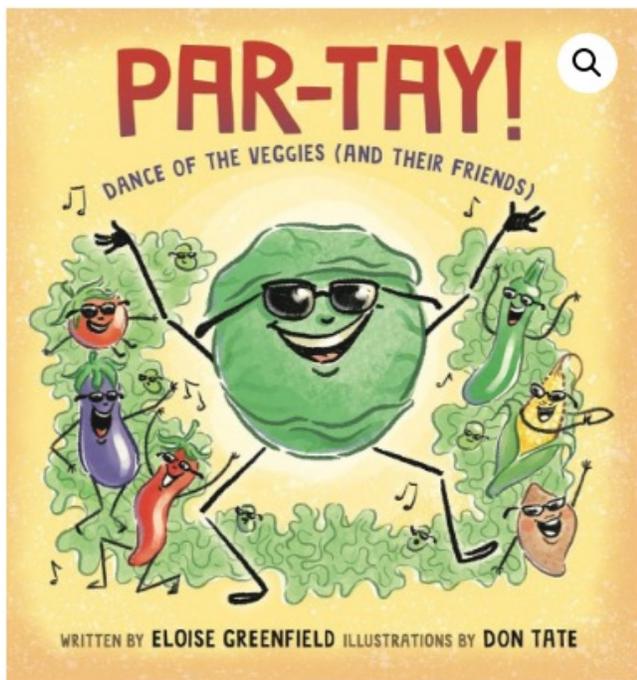
PreS-Gr 1—This cool and fun-loving tale features anthropomorphic vegetables and fruits that sneak out of the refrigerator to "Par-Tay!" when their owners leave. As soon as the car pulls away, a jazzy ensemble, including Eggplant on piano, Basil on the bass, and Tomato on saxophone, begins to play, encouraging all the other friends to join in by dancing. Each vegetable or fruit has a unique personality, from the Hip-Hop String Bean who "[ripples] her arms, like waves in an ocean" to the "ever-patient" sweet potato sisters who "dance as sweet as pie." This will make an entertaining read-aloud since every other line rhymes and each spread ends with a different celebratory exclamation. Tate's illustrations capture the exuberance as well as the different personalities by giving each fruit and vegetable specific details, such as sunglasses, a backward turned baseball cap, or ruffled tutu skirts. After a wild night, the vegetables and friends do a slow dance back to the fridge, where they are happy to "relax in the delicious coldness." Greenfield concludes the story by answering the question, "What is a vegetable?" in four concise paragraphs. Plus, she provides a list of all the vegetables and fruits that appear in the story (nine of each type), but the health benefits of each are not discussed. VERDICT Young children will enjoy this pairing of healthy foods with the joys of dancing and music.

—Sally James, South Hillsborough Elementary School, CA



Tulsa Book Review

Home / Children's / PAR-TAY!: Dance of the Veggies



PAR-TAY!: Dance of the Veggies

We rated this book:



\$17.95

A family leaves their house and goes out for the evening. The head of cabbage that is in the refrigerator sneaks to the front window to make sure the people are gone. As soon as they drive away, the cabbage alerts the other vegetables and fruits that it is time for them to party. They all come out of the refrigerator, magical instruments appear, and various veggies start making music. One after another of the veggies and fruits takes the center of the floor and, each in its own style, takes a turn dancing. After everyone has had a turn, they return to the refrigerator before the family comes home.

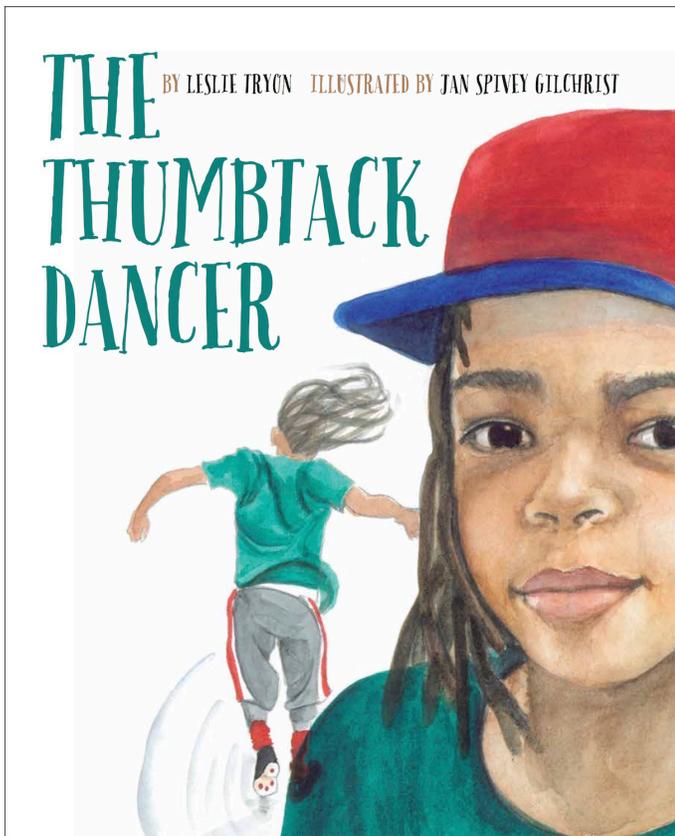
Any way to make kids find vegetables and fruits interesting is a win. Author Eloise Greenfield has made up a cute story, part in rhyme and part in prose, that strives to make vegetables fun. There is a little back matter that gives some information about vegetables and fruits and the difference between them, but there is no such information in the story. Cute cartoonish illustrations by Don Tate will help keep little ones interested.

Reviewed By: Rosi Hollinbeck



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The Thumbtack Dancer

Author: Leslie Tryon

Illustrator: Jan Spivey Gilchrist

Children's picture book, fiction

Hardback | **ISBN-13:** 978-0-9977720-0-5

ePDF | **ISBN-13:** 978-0-9977720-1-2

Publication Date: August 2017

Ages: 5-7

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“Leslie's uplifting and joyful story about a little boy's passion and determination to dance will leave you smiling. Jan's alternating misty and sharper watercolor images echo the energy and joy in this inspiring story.”

- Diane Dillon, esteemed illustrator, who with her husband, Leo Dillon, collaborated to create award winning illustrations garnering two Caldecott medals, four New York Times Best Illustrated Awards, four Boston Globe / Horn Book Awards, and the Society of Illustrators Gold Medal.

“So many wonderful lessons weave together as the art and the story s-l-i-d-e together in a perfect duet.”

– Gene Medler, founder and director of the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE), director of the NC Rhythm Tap Festival, faculty member of the Ballet School of Chapel Hill and Elon University Performing Arts Faculty.

“Hard work, persistence, and positivity! The Thumbtack Dancer will engage the eyes, ears, hearts, minds, and FEET of all young readers!”

– Michelle Dorrance, highly acclaimed dancer and choreographer, founder and artistic director of Dorrance Dance, 2015 MacArthur ‘Genius Grant’ Fellow, 2014 Alpert Award Winner, 2013 Jacob’s Pillow Dance Award Winner.



Available August 1, 2017

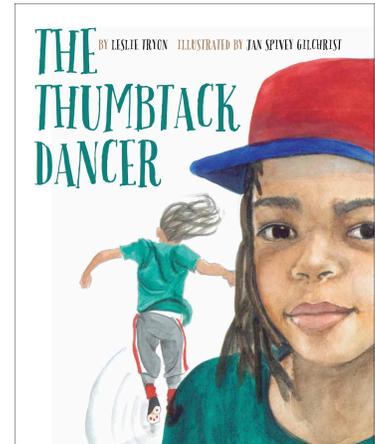
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**Meet Gus. Why walk when you can dance?
Gus has a dance for everything but he
needs a dance teacher and figures out his
steps to get one.**

Story by Leslie Tryon

Illustrations by Jan Spivey Gilchrist



“Just like yesterday and the day before, Gus KICKED out of bed, LACED-UP his thumbtack sneakers and did his teeth-brushing dance. Next he did his bed-making dance, and then his getting-dressed dance.

His mama knew Gus was up because she could hear, the tip-a-tap, rap-a-slap, flap-a-dap thumbtack rhythms through the kitchen ceiling.”

Gus has a dance for everything! Gus is a most promising, most energetic and most talented young dancer who figures out how to make enough money to upgrade his tip-a-tap thumbtack sneakers to a new pair of real tap shoes.

Leslie Tryon is the author of the clever, charming and inventive Albert series and several other books for young readers. She is the illustrator of Alma Flor Ada's Dear Peter Rabbit and With Love, Little Red Hen. She has received an ALA Notable book recognition, a Parents Choice Honor and an Ezra Jack Keats Award for Excellence in the Arts. Leslie has written that she might have begun her career as an author and illustrator much earlier if she hadn't become a dancer first. With her experience as a tapper, Leslie has stepped into her own world of dance with *The Thumbtack Dancer*.

Jan Spivey Gilchrist is the award-winning illustrator-author of seventy-four children's books. Dr. Gilchrist illustrated the highly acclaimed picture book *The Great Migration: Journey to the North*, written by Eloise Greenfield. This book was recognized with a Coretta Scott King Honor, named a Junior Library Guild Best Book, was an NAACP Image Award nominee, a CCBC Best Book, and a Georgia State Children's Book Award nominee. Jan received a Coretta Scott King Award for her illustrations in *Nathaniel Talking* and a Coretta Scott King Honor for her illustrations in *Night on Neighborhood Street*, both written by Eloise Greenfield. In *The Thumbtack Dancer*, Jan brings Gus' moves to life and puts his talent on display.

Come “slap-a-dee-dap, slap-a-dee-dap – down the sidewalk” with Gus!

The Thumbtack Dancer

Published by Alazar Press | distributed by IPG | ISBN: 978-0-9977720-0-5

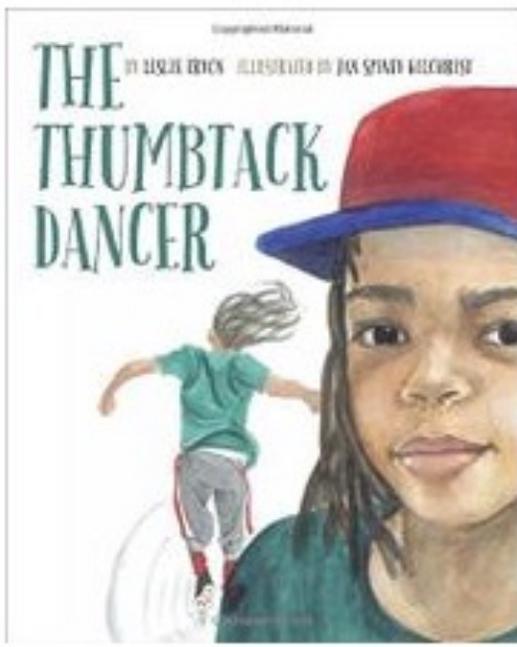
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THE THUMBTACK DANCER

by Leslie Tryon, illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist

Age Range: 4 - 7

THE THUMBTACK DANCER [STARRED REVIEW!]

Review Issue Date: May 15, 2017

Online Publish Date: April 26, 2017

Publisher: Alazar Press

Pages: 32

Price (Hardcover): \$17.95

Price (e-book): \$12.99

Publication Date: August 1, 2017

ISBN (Hardcover): 978-0-9977720-0-5

ISBN (e-book): 978-0-9977720-1-2

Category: Fiction

KIRKUS REVIEW

With twinkle toes like Bill "Bojangles" Robinson's, a young light-skinned black boy has rhythm oozing from his pores. From morning until night, Gus taps everywhere he goes. Unable to afford tap shoes, he adds seven red thumbtacks to his shoes to make his fancy footwork audible. Every day, Gus attempts to convince the teacher at the local dance studio—an African-American man who wears dreadlocks like Gus'—that he has the moves to be a tap dancer. But the teacher will not allow thumbtacks on his hardwood floors: "You won't get through this door until you have real tap shoes." Gus finally realizes that his dance moves are just the commodity he needs to earn entree into the studio. Though the facial features of some of the characters are sometimes distorted, Gilchrist's airy watercolor illustrations skillfully capture Gus' perpetual motion, with his long locks flying this way and that in nearly every illustration. Some readers might find the teacher a disappointment: with the passion and potential Gus has for being a tap-dancing prodigy, surely the teacher could find the boy a used pair of tap shoes to help him start honing his craft. Gus' poverty need not be an obstacle. Nevertheless, it proves a suitable driver for the story and a showcase for Gus' determination. This story full of motion, passion for the art of dance, and onomatopoeia that lets readers hear Gus' tapping will urge readers to add thumbtacks to their own shoes and start dancing! (Picture book. 4-7)



Review by Sarah Stone for School Library Journal

TRYON, Leslie. *The Thumbtack Dancer*. illus. by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. 32p. Alazar. Aug. 2017. Tr \$17.95. ISBN 9780997772005.

Gr 1-3—Creativity and hustle open doors (dance studio doors, that is) for an exuberant young dancer. Gus cannot afford tap shoes, so he relies on thumbtacks in the soles of his shoes to give his dances percussive rhythm. The refrain “yesterday and the day before” signals the boy’s irrepressible love for dance. After his improper footwear results in yet another rejection from a dance studio, Gus uses his skills as a street performer to earn tap shoe money. Sound effects and onomatopoeia make this a lively read-aloud, with parts of the text bolded, in all caps, or in different typefaces for emphasis. The vibrant watercolor illustrations are sketchy and fluid, bound to appeal to children who love motion. Some of the more static images, particularly those of faces, are less successful, but African American Gus’s shoulder-length dreadlocks and graceful arms make him seem to fly. **VERDICT** Pair this with Rita Williams-Garcia’s *Bottle Cap Boys Dancing on Royal Street* to spark discussion of artistry, ingenuity, and persistence in the face of inequality.—Sarah Stone, San Francisco Public Library

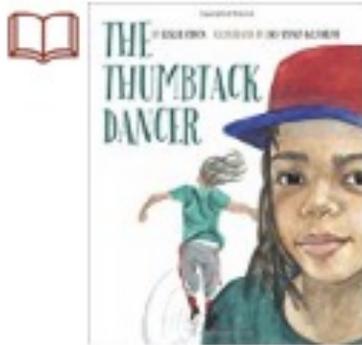


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Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - General Fiction



The Thumbtack Dancer.
Tryon, Leslie (author). Illustrated by
Jan Spivey Gilchrist.
Aug. 2017. 32p. Alazar, hardcover,
\$17.95 ([9780997772005](#)). K-Grade 3.
REVIEW. First published October 12,
2017 (Booklist Online).

The Thumbtack Dancer.

Tryon, Leslie (Author) , Gilchrist, Jan Spivey (Illustrator)
Aug 2017. 32 p. Alazar, hardcover, \$17.95. (9780997772005).

Gus, a spirited African American boy, has a rhythm in his soul that simply can't be contained. It *slap-a-dee-daps* him through the house and down the street until he and his thumbtack-studded sneakers arrive at the red doors of a dance studio. When the stern-faced tap instructor opens the door, Gus launches into his "Watch-this! dance," but the teacher tells Gus that he can't join the class without real tap shoes—shoes the boy can't afford. But instead of growing discouraged, Gus starts dancing for change on the sidewalk and, before long, has the money he needs. This joyful story of persistence comes to life through the written rhythms and Coretta Scott King Award–winner Gilchrist's wonderfully kinetic illustrations, which use swathes of watercolor to depict Gus' energy and movement. Tap has strong roots in the African American community, so it's fantastic to see that reflected in the black faces of Gus, the tap teacher, and the boys in the class. This infectious read-aloud will put a smile on kids' lips and set their toes twitching.

— Julia Smith



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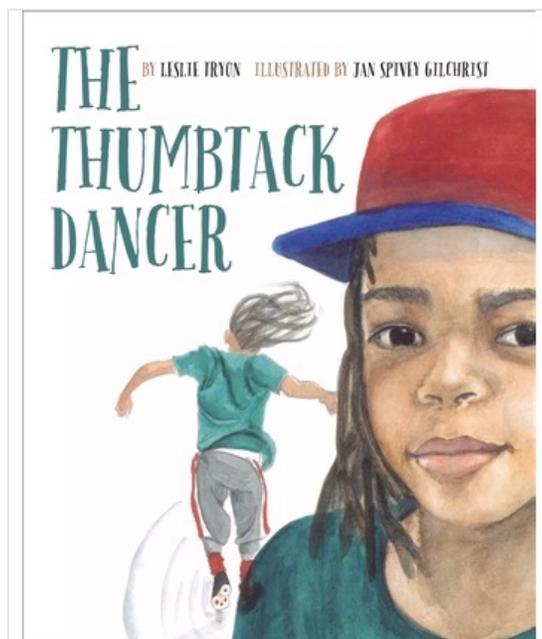
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The Thumbtack Dancer

By Leslie Tyron, Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist

5-7
JUVENILE FICTION
32 PAGES, 9 X 12
FORMATS: CLOTH, PDF
PDF, \$12.99 (US \$12.99) (CA \$16.99)
PUBLICATION DATE: AUGUST 2017
ISBN 9780997772012
RIGHTS: WOR

ALAZAR PRESS (AUG 2017)

Book Type: PDF (\$12.99)

Not yet published. Ships 8/1/2017.

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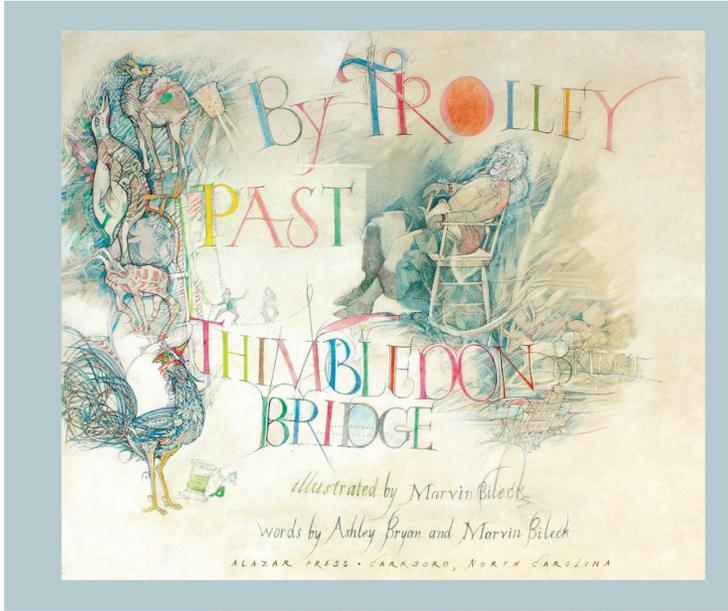
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By Trolley Past Thimbleton Bridge

Illustrated by Marvin Bileck and Written by Ashley Bryan



Ages: All ages

ISBN: 978-0-9793000-4-2

Price: \$17.95

Length: 32 pages

Ashley Bryan and Marvin Bileck have produced award-winning books. This is their first and only collaboration on a children's book.

This picture book takes children of all ages on a trolley-ride dream adventure. As sleep starts the journey into the blue, marvelous threads unravel dreamy images out of the blue revealing animals, far-off places, a circus, games, toys, wind, rain, a touch of this and a touch of that, words and wordplay.

Bileck and Bryan capture the stuff of dreams in this mesmerizing and multifaceted pageant.

—**KIRKUS, Starred Review**

"I have great hopes for this book. I think it can become a classic."

—**JEAN KARL, founder, Atheneum Books for Young Readers**

This is the work of two masters, who will take children on an exciting passage through time and illusion with their careful blending of words and pictures.

—**JAN SPIVEY GILCHRIST, Illustrator and Author, Coretta Scott King Award**

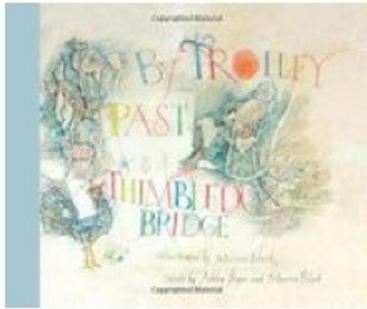
This trolley ride took me back to my own childhood, complete with the sound memory of the clank of change in the fare box. I fell in love with the verse, "Tiger tiptoes to Timbuctu to talk to the turtle till ten to two."

—**HENRIETTA MAYS SMITH, Professor Emerita, University of South Florida, Eric Carle Honor, Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award**



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BY TROLLEY PAST THIMBLETON BRIDGE

by Ashley Bryan, Marvin Bileck, illustrated by Marvin Bileck

Age Range: 5 - 9

Pub Date: May 1st, 2015

ISBN: 978-0-9793000-4-2

Publisher: Alazar Press

With echoes of Lear and Stevenson, this journey into the land of dreams pairs a detailed Old World setting with a pulsing four-beat rhythm to pull readers into its magical realm.

Bileck, illustrator of Julian Scheer's *Rain Makes Applesauce* (1964), originally created these graphite-and-colored-pencil drawings for a children's manuscript by Virginia Woolf. When her estate canceled the project, Bryan collaborated on a new text with his longtime friend. Masterful wordplay, alliteration, imagery, and rhyme contribute to this 29-stanza poem, printed in its entirety at the opening and then woven throughout the densely populated pages in a hand-printed text. Thimbleton Bridge "is a merry mile long. / No one can cross who is cross. / It boasts a moon quite enormously blown / By bubble-man, bassoonist, Peat Moss." Spools, needles, and thimbles weave the emerging tapestry, both out of and "into the blue." Pinwheels and performers, giraffes and camels, turrets and greenery unfold in a fantastical, surreal parade. The images are alternately richly saturated with color or rendered with such a pale line as to be slipping from sight. The seamstress/narrator appears at the beginning and conclusion as a benevolent figure, relaxing in a rocker. Inside she becomes the wild Wind-Witch, hoary and zombielike, in compositions as disturbing as the rest are delightful.

Bileck and Bryan capture the stuff of dreams in this mesmerizing and multifaceted pageant. (contributors' notes) (*Picture book*. 5-9)



Parents' Choice Awards : Books : Picture Books

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By Trolley Past Thimbleton Bridge

Spring 2015 Picture Books

Ages: All Ages

Author: Ashley Bryan

Illustrator: Marvin Bileck

Publisher: Alazar Press

ISBN: 978-0979300042

Hardcover Price: \$17.95

Review:

Delightful nonsense poems are loosely tied together in an imaginative journey by trolley over Thimbleton Bridge. The bridge is "a merry mile long. No one can cross who is cross ..." begins an entrancing adventure that circles back to its beginning through double-page spreads of intricate, creative, lively, and enchanting illustrations.

Illustrator Marvin Bileck gives us tiny characters, people and phantasms, who jump, dance and twirl across the pages. He is fond of lumpy creatures -- camels, giraffes, horses and a seated old lady. The pictures imply that the occasionally depicted thimbles, spools, needles and threads from the old woman sew the light-hearted verses together.

The artist draws very fine brown pencil drawings colored in with pale shades. This same brown pencil delivers finely drawn, almost-hidden, humorous, playful messages throughout, such as, an old lion with the words underneath, "I'm just an old line drawing." This same lion has small people jumping out of his mane.

This treasure of a "lap book" invites unhurried exploration of the fascinating pictures. A wholly unique, whimsical masterpiece.

Kemie Nix ©2015 Parents' Choice

Kemie Nix is Chairman of Children's Literature for Children (CLC) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, educational organization dedicated to bringing children and books together. Mrs. Nix, a senior book editor for Parents' Choice, has a remarkable sense in selecting books children love to read.

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(<http://www.sanfranciscobookreview.com>)

BY TROLLEY PAST THIMBLETON BRIDGE



(<http://www.sanfranciscobookreview.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/by-trolley-.jpg>) By Ashley Bryan, Marvin Bileck, illustrator
Alazar Press, \$17.95, 32 pages, Format: eBook

★★★★★ (4 / 5)

Once upon a time, artist Marvin Bileck was asked to illustrate a children's book written by the esteemed Virginia Woolf. While that collaboration was never completed, Bileck so loved what he had started that he instead began working with writer (and friend) Ashley Bryan to breathe a different kind of life into his initial drawings. The result comes to us as *By Trolley Past Thimbleton Bridge*, a picture book that is sure to delight children and adults alike. Don't look for a coherent story here. Instead, this book consists of whimsical prose that is all loosely connected by the theme of Thimbleton Land. There are really only two pages of text here, where the various lines of prose are collected in one place. Most of the book consists of Bileck's beautiful artwork, full of bright colors, fantastical structures, an assortment of human characters, and a menagerie of animals. Lines of prose are scattered among the illustrations, which will

dazzle the eyes and stimulate the imagination. *By Trolley Past Thimbleton Bridge* has literally been decades in the making, but this beautiful picture book has been completely worth the wait.

Reviewed by Holly Scudero

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One thought on "By Trolley Past Thimbleton Bridge"

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The Artist and the King

Written and Illustrated by Julie Fortenberry



Ages: 4-8

ISBN: 978-0-9793000-3-5

Price: \$16.95

Length: 32 pages

Winner of 2015 Feathered Quill Award – Bronze level for Best Children’s Illustrated book.

This is Julie’s debut as both author and illustrator. Julie won an Illustrator Children’s Choice Award in 2012.

When a bad-tempered King punishes a little artist, he meets his match. For Daphne, the artist, turns her punishment, a dunce cap, into a fashionable and regal hat.

Now every villager wants to wear one of Daphne’s creations. How could she have known that her hat-making would undermine the King’s authority? Than again, maybe Daphne’s caring, creative spirit is just what the kingdom—and the King—has needed all along.

“In a nod to art’s twin powers of subversion and of transformation, a very small painter makes a hardhearted king cry—and then smile.”

- **Kirkus Reviews**

“Children will look to find themselves in the crowd of people and will be able to do so.”-

- **Henrietta Mays Smith, Ph.D., University of South Florida, 2011 Coretta Scott King—Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award Winner**

“An endearing protagonist who puts the very ‘spunk’ in ‘spunky.’ Julie’s vivid artwork pops off the page.”

- **Julie Danielson, Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast**



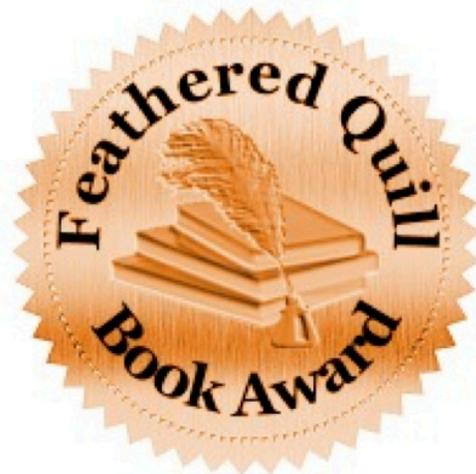
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For Release: February 2015
Media Contact: Joseph Gulla, Alazar Press
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**Daphne is ready to paint the town!
Congratulations, Julie Fortenberry!**
**The Artist and the King has won its first national book honor –
a bronze award for **Best Children’s Illustrated Book** from the
2015 Feathered Quill Book Awards.**



Buzz about the book

“An enchanting story that teaches youngsters to never give up.” –*Feathered Quill Book Reviews*

"In a nod to art's twin powers of subversion and of transformation, a very small painter makes a hardhearted king cry--and then smile." --*Kirkus Reviews*

“Children will look to find themselves in the crowd of people and will be able to do so.” —*Henrietta Mays Smith, Ph.D., 2011 Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award Winner*

“Colorful, whimsical illustrations invite younger listeners into the story of a young courageous artist who defies her king. Themes of the critical importance of art and meaningful relationships add allegorical layers that deepen the story for all readers.” —*Susie Wilde, teacher, writer, children's book specialist*

The Artist and the King

by Julie Fortenberry | published by Alazar Press | distributed by IPG | ISBN: 978-0-9793000-3-5
Hardcover Picture Book | 32 pages | 8.25 x 8.25 | \$16.95 US (\$19.95 CAN) | Juvenile Fiction

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THE ARTIST AND THE KING

by Julie Fortenberry, illustrated by Julie Fortenberry

Age Range: 6 - 8

Pub Date: April 7th, 2014

ISBN: 978-0-9793000-3-5

Publisher: Alazar Press

In a nod to art's twin powers of subversion and of transformation, a very small painter makes a hardhearted king cry—and then smile.

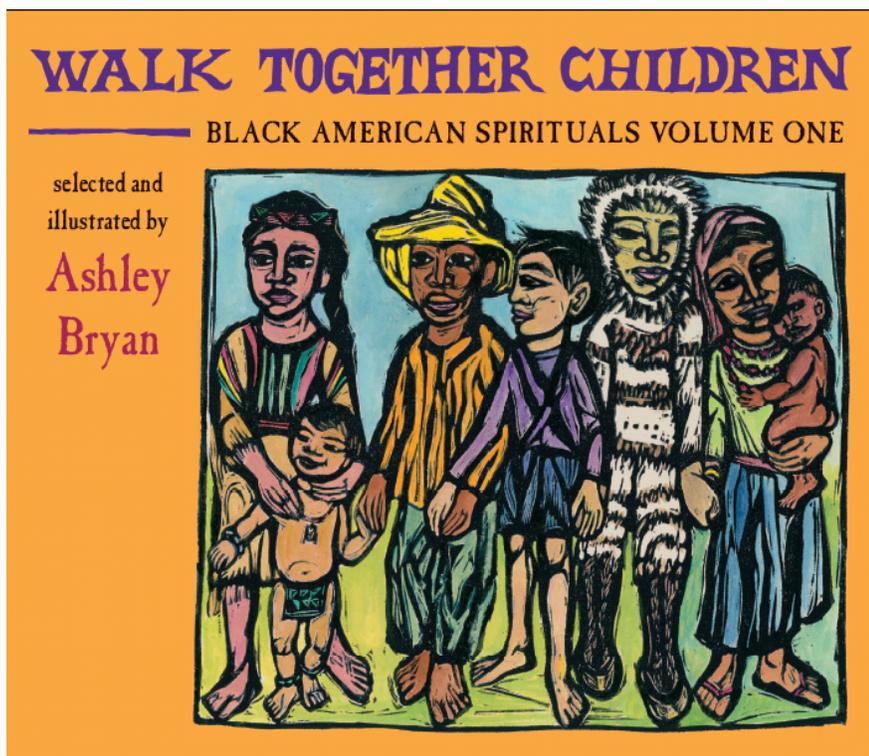
Enraged at the sight of a quickly sketched scowling caricature, the king orders little Daphne to exchange her artist's beret for a tall, conical dunce cap. She proceeds to decorate and make it so attractive that soon, her hats are selling like hotcakes ("She has such an eye for color and proportion," coos a customer). Taking this new fashion to be mockery, the king rushes out to banish everyone—including, as it turns out, his own angry daughter. Re-enter Daphne, who apologizes for the "mean picture," soothes the weeping monarch with a pointed cap of his own, and after helping him lead the princess and other exiles back, regains her beret as a reward. In her scribbly cartoons, Fortenberry endows both the king and the diminutive artist with easy-to-read expressions and big, fetching manes of flyaway black curls. Readers inspired by the dozens of artfully enhanced toppers on display in several scenes will find directions for making their own on the author's website.

Parts of this may fly over younger audiences' heads, but the general point is adroitly made. (*Picture book. 6-8*)

Walk Together Children

Black American Spirituals Volume One

Selected and Illustrated by Ashley Bryan



Ages: All ages

ISBN: 978-0-9793000-1-1

Price: \$21.95

Length: 72 pages



These new editions of Ashley Bryan's first two books of Spirituals, *Walk Together Children* and *I'm Going to Sing* have been lovingly updated. These special volumes have a new introduction by Bryan along with new full color cover art. Dr. Henrietta Mays Smith, recipient of the 2011 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Practitioner Award for Lifetime Achievement, contributed a new foreword.

"Bryan's seminal collection of slave songs and "sorrow songs" have been reissued, updated, and beautifully redesigned with a new introduction by Bryan."

- *The Horn Book*



The Horn BOOK

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**Walk Together Children:
Black American Spirituals,
Volume One**

selected by Ashley Bryan; illus. by the selector
Preschool, Primary Alazar 56 pp.
4/12 978-0-9793000-1-1 \$21.95 g

**I'm Going to Sing:
Black American Spirituals,
Volume Two**

selected by Ashley Bryan; illus. by the selector
Preschool, Primary Alazar 56 pp.
4/12 978-0-9793000-2-8 \$21.95 g

Bryan's seminal collections of slave songs and "sorrow songs" (originally published by Atheneum in 1974 and 1982, respectively) have been reissued, updated, and beautifully redesigned with a new introduction by Bryan and a foreword by Dr. Henrietta Mays Smith, recipient of the 2011 Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Practitioner Award for Lifetime Achievement (and friend of *The Horn Book*). The cover illustrations are colorized, but the books themselves contain the same several dozen inspiring and culturally significant songs—"Go Tell It On the Mountain," "Nobody Knows the Trouble I See," "Joshua Fit the Battle," and many others—with easy-to-follow musical notation and black-and-white woodcut art. elissa gershowitz



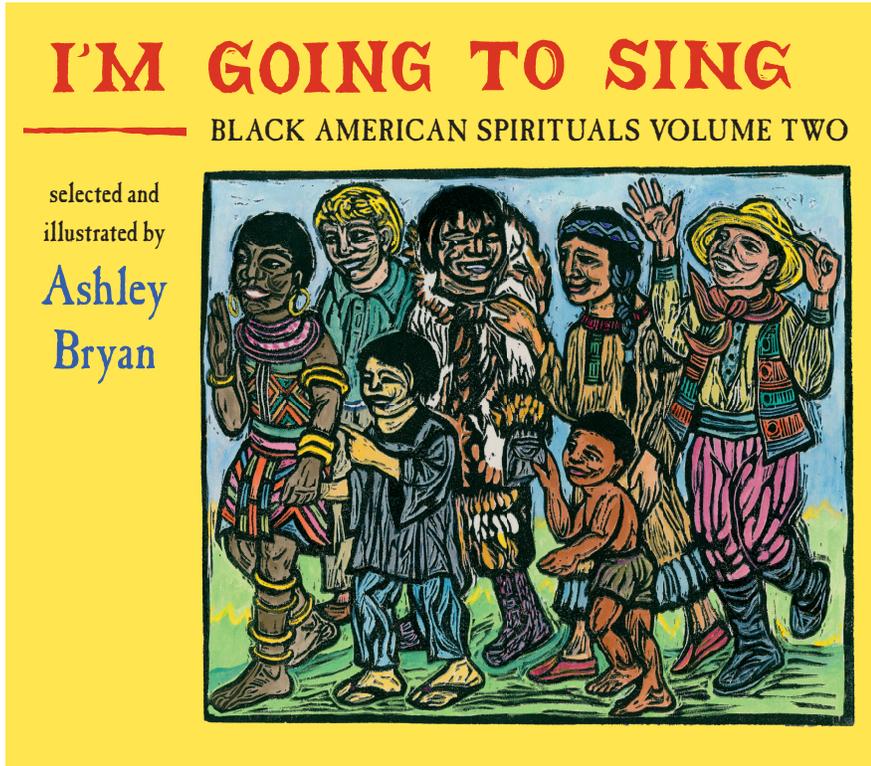
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I'm Going to Sing

Black American Spirituals Volume Two

Selected and Illustrated by Ashley Bryan



Ages: All ages

ISBN: 978-0-9793000-2-8

Price: \$21.95

Length: 72 pages



Ashley Bryan created linocut prints paired with musical notes painstakingly hand-cut and set to match the power of the songs. The musical genius of enslaved Africans created these Spirituals to give life to the spirit, breath to the soul and the lift needed to bear the crushing weight of slavery.

These books are offered as an invitation to share and enjoy this music, a gift from the inspired souls of slaves. These are songs for all times and all places.

“These exquisite editions of Bryan's timeless collections will enlighten and inspire a new generation of readers.”

- School Library Journal



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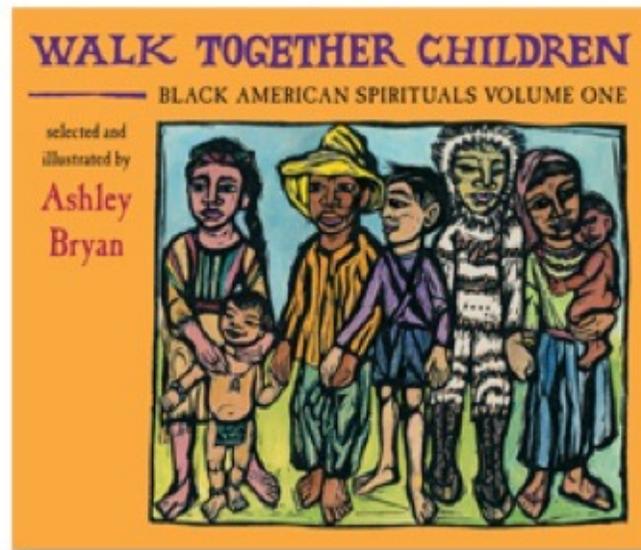
Fresh Approaches: New Editions: Refreshed and Ready to Shine

By Joy Fleishhacker May 1, 2012

From http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/home/894399-312/fresh_approaches_new_editions_refreshed.html.csp

*This article originally appeared in the newsletter Extra Helping from **School Library Journal**.*

Songs for All People

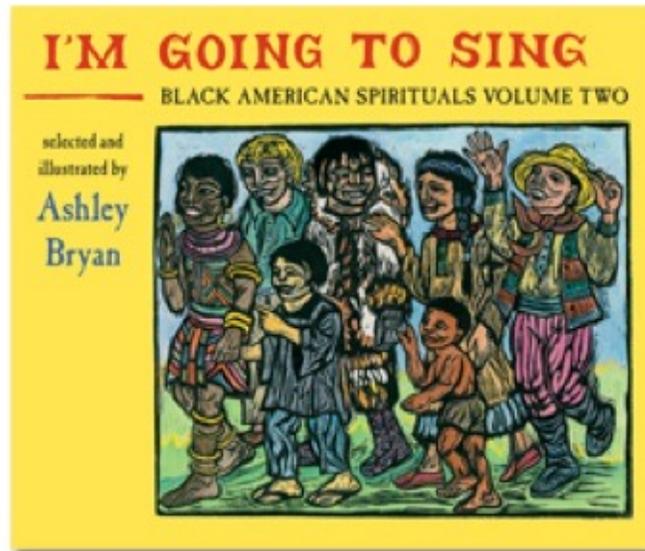


Alazar Press presents handsome new editions of Ashley Bryan's first two books of spirituals, long out of print. A renowned storyteller, author, artist, poet, and musician, Bryan was honored this year as the recipient of ALA's Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. Originally published in 1974, *Walk Together Children: Black American Spirituals*, an ALA Notable book, was followed by a second volume, *I'm Going to Sing* (1982, both Atheneum; K Up), which was named a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor book. Each title presents two-dozen selections, pairing striking linocut illustrations with lyrics and music (the titles and musical notations were also meticulously hand-cut by the artist).



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The Alazar editions are graced by refreshed cover images, beautifully colored in vibrant hues and set against warm-toned backdrops. In his new introduction, Bryan provides historical and social context for these songs, and eloquently states their legacy: "The Spirituals are testimony to the genius of the enslaved Blacks that allowed them to remain human and creative through adversity. We stand today in the light of this achievement. The Spirituals offer this precious stance and heritage as an inspiration to all people." Featuring individuals whose faces are filled with feeling, the intricately detailed illustrations depict biblical scenes as well as historical moments both harrowing and joyful. The artwork visually conveys each song's power and emotional impact, while trumpeting a universal message of perseverance and hope. These exquisite editions of Bryan's timeless collections will enlighten and inspire a new generation of readers.

Publication Information

BRYAN, Ashley, sel. *Walk Together Children: Black American Spirituals: Volume One*. ISBN 978-0-9793000-1-1.

_____. *I'm Going to Sing: Black American Spirituals: Volume Two*. ISBN 978-0-9793000-2-8.

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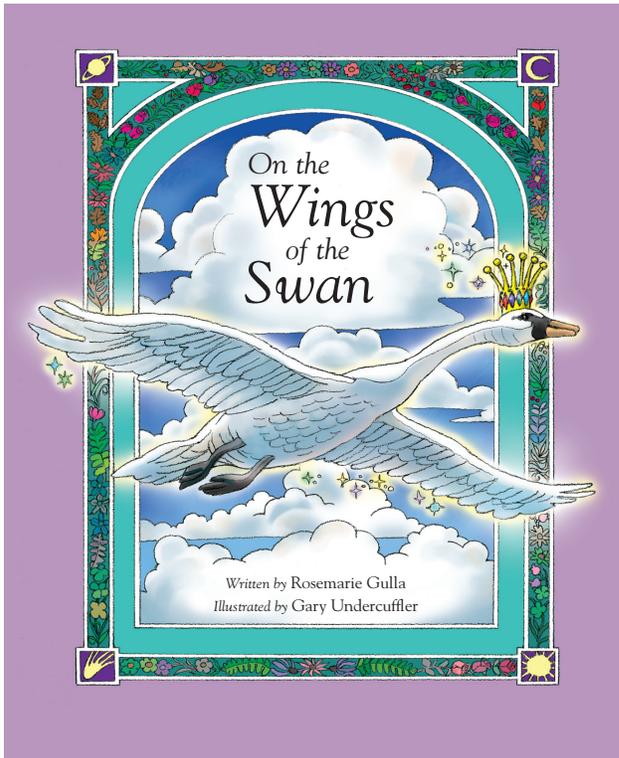
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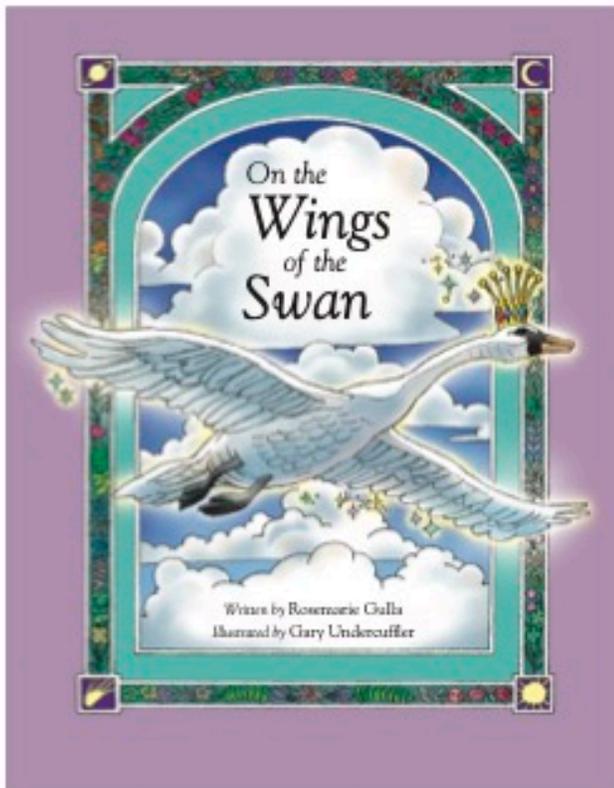




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About Rosemarie Gulla

Using her knowledge of stories and storytelling from her lifetime as an educator, Rosemarie works to support the developing minds of children through the use of stories that engage their imagination. Rosemarie currently resides in Carrboro, North Carolina with her husband Joseph--in the house where they raised their three daughters.

About Gary Undercuffler

Over his lifetime as an artist, Gary has illustrated a wide variety of books, textbooks, and magazines. He also finds time to draw in his sketchbooks, do figure drawings, and Morris dance. Gary lives in Pennsylvania with his wife, Diana.

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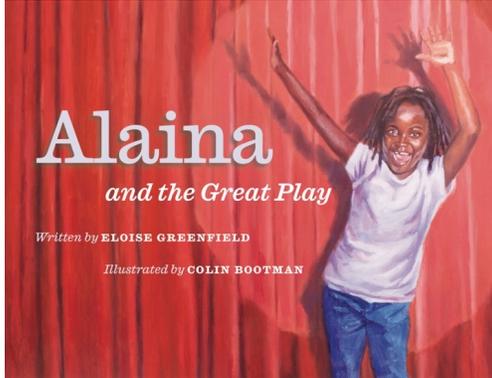


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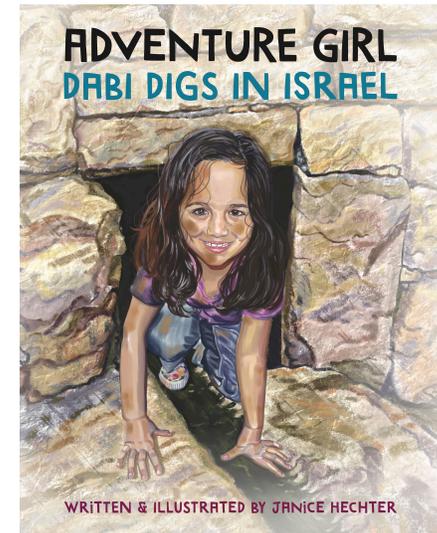
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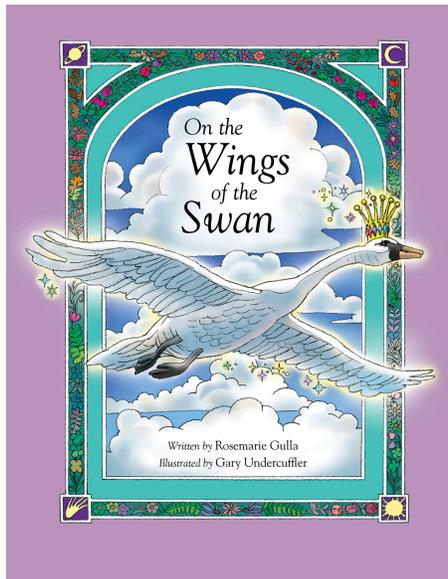
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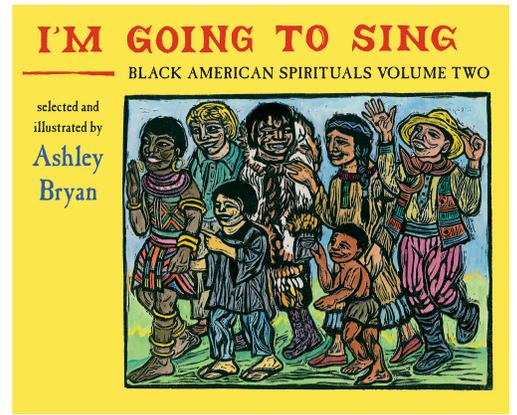
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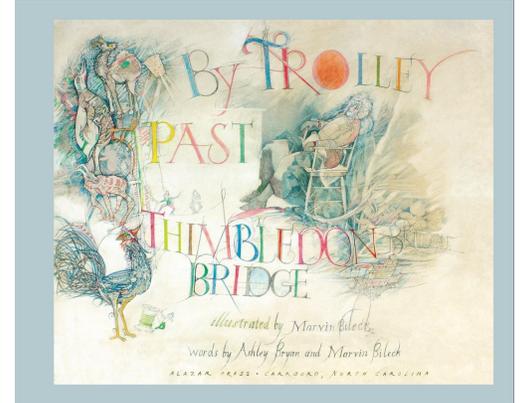
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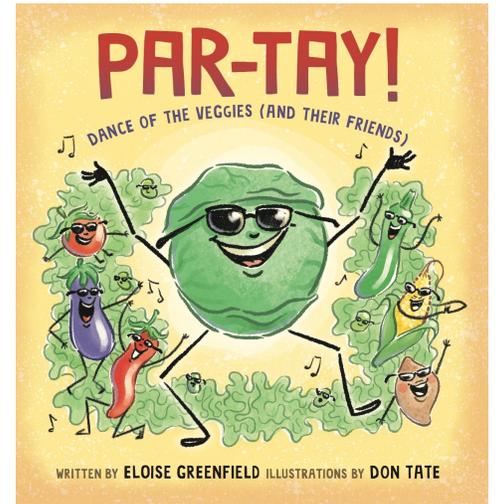
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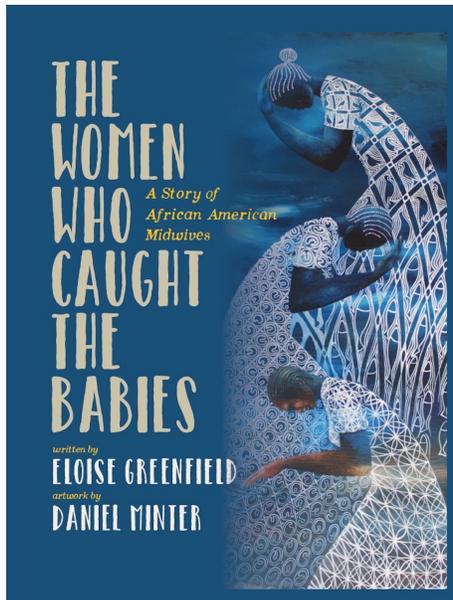
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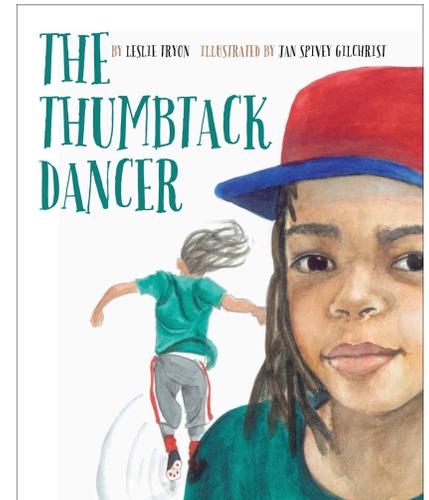
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